

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 01721 291056Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO /SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6465
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1721

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASCH, BAN SA
SUBJ: BAHRAIN SCHOOL

REF: STATE 191657

1. I LOOK FORWARD TO AMBASSADOR WEST'S VIEW OF APPALLING DEVELOPMENT DESCRIBED REFTEL. ONE THING NOW IS INEVITABLE: I MUST ACQUAINT GOB WITH STATE OF PLAY AND I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AVOID SPECIFICS. I CAN NOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE DO OTHERWISE AND I WILL RAISE ISSUE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, PRIME MINISTER AND AMIR DURING MY FAREWELL CALLS ON THESE GENTLEMEN ON JULY 31 AND AUGUST 1.

2. FACT THAT DOD DOES RECOGNIZE VALIDITY OF ITS BASIC COMMITMENT IS OF COURSE WELCOME BUT FACT THAT ECONOMICS AND ONLY ECONOMICS DETERMINES FATE OF BOARDING SCHOOL IS DEPRESSING. ACCOUNTANCY IS AN ADMIRABLE VOCATION BUT ITS PRACTITIONERS SHOULD NOT MAKE POLICY.

3. TO KEEP RECORD CLEAR, CONCEPT OF AMORTIZING CONSTRUCTION COSTS OVER FIVE YEAR PERIOD WAS NOT A REQUIREMENT OF SCHOOL BOARD BUT SIMPLY THE MINIMUM PERIOD TO WHICH DOD COMMITTED ITSELF TO RUN THE SCHOOL: FOR FIVE YEARS AND THEREAFTER UNTIL SAG PERMITTED SECONDARY SCHOOL IN SAUDI ARABIA. SHOULD DOD WISH TO STRETCH AMORTIZATION OVER TEN YEARS I AM CERTAIN GOB, SCHOOL BOARD, AND BANKS WOULD GO ALONG.

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4. I WILL OF COURSE MEET WITH DOD REPS WHEN I RETURN TO US. WE CAN DISCUSS THIS MORNING OF AUGUST 4 WHEN I PLAN TO BE IN DEPT. CLUVERIUS

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